

**America the Beautiful,
God Shed His Grace on Thee**

Proverbs 14:34

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

America’s Past

Patrick Henry: *It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!*

Patrick Henry: *This is all the inheritance I can give my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed.*

George Washington: *It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.*

George Washington: *It is impossible to account for the creation of the universe without the agency of a Supreme Being. It is impossible to govern the universe without the aid of a Supreme Being.*

Noah Webster: *Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion. The religion which has introduced civil liberty, is the religion of Christ and His apostles. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free constitutions of government.*

Samuel Adams: *A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they love their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader.*

Steven Morris’ *Los Angeles Times* article, “American’s Unchristian Beginnings” (picked up by wire services and reprinted in scores of newspapers across the nation), was loaded with deliberate falsehoods to ‘prove’ America’s Founder were purely secular. For instance, concerning John Adams, Morris claimed: *Late in his life, he [John Adams] wrote, “Twenty times in the course of my late reading have I been upon the point of breaking out, ‘This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it!!!’”*

The Rest of the Story... This statement appears in Adams’ letter to Thomas Jefferson on April 19, 1817, in which Adams recounted a conversation between Joseph Cleverly and Lemuel

Bryant, a schoolmaster and a minister he had known. Disgusted by the petty religious bickering displayed by those two, Adams declared to Jefferson: *Twenty times in the course of my late reading have I been on the point of breaking out, "This would be the best of all possible worlds, if there were no religion in it!!!" But in this exclamation I would have been as fanatical as Bryant or Cleverly. Without religions this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite company, I mean hell.*

In reality, revisionists like Steven Morris (and especially those from the Society of Separationists or the American Atheist Society) deliberately reverse Adams' position. Not only did Adams declare that it would be 'fanatical' to desire a world without religion (and that such a world would be 'hell'), but on May 5, 1817, Jefferson wrote back to Adams and said that he agreed!

Since the goal of Morris and others like him is to 'prove' that people of faith have no precedent for being involved in politics, he characterizes the Founders' general religious beliefs with the same false summary that most revisionists – both in academia and media – often proclaim: *The early presidents and patriots were generally Deists or Unitarians, believing in some form of impersonal Providence, but rejecting the divinity of Jesus and the relevance of the Bible.*

Yet, the Founders' own declarations in their last wills and testaments disprove those assertions and speak loud and clear that the great majority of our Founders were indeed believers in Jesus Christ. For example:

Samuel Adams, signer of the Declaration: *First of all, I...rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.*

John Dickinson, signer of the Constitution: *To my Creator I resign myself, humbly confiding in His goodness and in His mercy through Jesus Christ for the events of eternity.*

Gabriel Duvall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, selected as delegate to Constitutional Convention: *I resign my soul into the hands of Almighty who gave it in humble hopes of His mercy through our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Patrick Henry: *This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed.*

John Jay, Original Chief-Justice, U.S. Supreme Court: *I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved Son... Blessed be His holy name.*

Robert Treat Paine, signer of the Declaration: *I am constrained to express my adoration of... the Author of my existence... [for] His forgiving mercy revealed to the world through Jesus Christ, through whom I hope for never ending happiness in a future state.*

Richard Stockton, signer of the Declaration: *I think it proper here not only to subscribe to... doctrines of the Christian religion... but also, in the bowels of a father's affection, to exhort and charge them [my children] that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, that the way of life held up in the Christian system is calculated for the most complete happiness.*

These wills represent only a few examples from many with the identical tone. Furthermore, the personal writings of numerous other Founders contain equally strong declarations.

Notice:

John Quincy Adams: *My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ and I cannot cavil or quibble away [evade or object to]... the whole tenor of His conduct by which He sometimes positively asserted and at others countenances [permits] His disciples in asserting that He was God.*

Gunning Bedford, signer of the Constitution: *Now to the triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and dominion, forevermore, Amen.*

Elias Boudinot, Revolutionary officer and President of the Continental Congress, in a letter to his daughter: *You have been instructed from your childhood in the knowledge of your lost state by nature the absolute necessity of a change of heart, and an entire renovation of soul to the image of Jesus Christ of salvation thro' His meritorious righteousness only and the indispensable necessity of personal holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.*

George Washington: *You do well to learn... above all the religions of Jesus Christ.*

Jacob Broom, signer of the Constitution, to his son: *Don't forget to be a Christian. I have said much to you on this head and I hope an indelible impression is made.*

Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration: *On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.*

Thomas Jefferson: *I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ.*

James Iredell, U.S. Supreme Court Justice under President George Washington: *I think the Christian religion is a Divine institution; and I pray to God that I may never forget the precepts of His religion or suffer the appearance of an inconsistency in my principles and practice.*

Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration: *My only hope of salvation is in the infinite, transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the Cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!*

Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration and the Constitution: *I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. That the Scriptures of old and new testaments are a revelation from God and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.*

John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration: *I shall now entreat... you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ, for 'there is no salvation in any other' [Acts 4:12]... If you are not clothed with the spotless robe of His righteousness, you must forever perish.*

James Madison: *We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves... according to the Ten Commandments of God.*